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CountyLife

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Turkey talks
Call of the birds on page 3

A life of learning
Back to books on page 4

Ventures to the Moon
Flying high on page 6

No, this isn't a current shot. But it's a reminder of days gone by, and that warmer weather is just on the horizon. Photo taken off Harburn Road. /FILE

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PATRICK: Community

HHEY GUYS. My name is Patrick. I'm in Grade 6, and kinda small for almost 12. I'm doing ok in school these days, though I didn't behave so great when I was little. Mom and Dad used to fight a lot, but that doesn't happen much any more. Everybody's sort of easier lately. But now I'm crazy-afraid of windy days. I've never said out loud that I was afraid of anything. Nowadays, I say everything that's on my mind.

A fire really changes things. The gas in our backyard generator somehow caught a spark, and a flame ran



DEB REED

Wind in the Attic

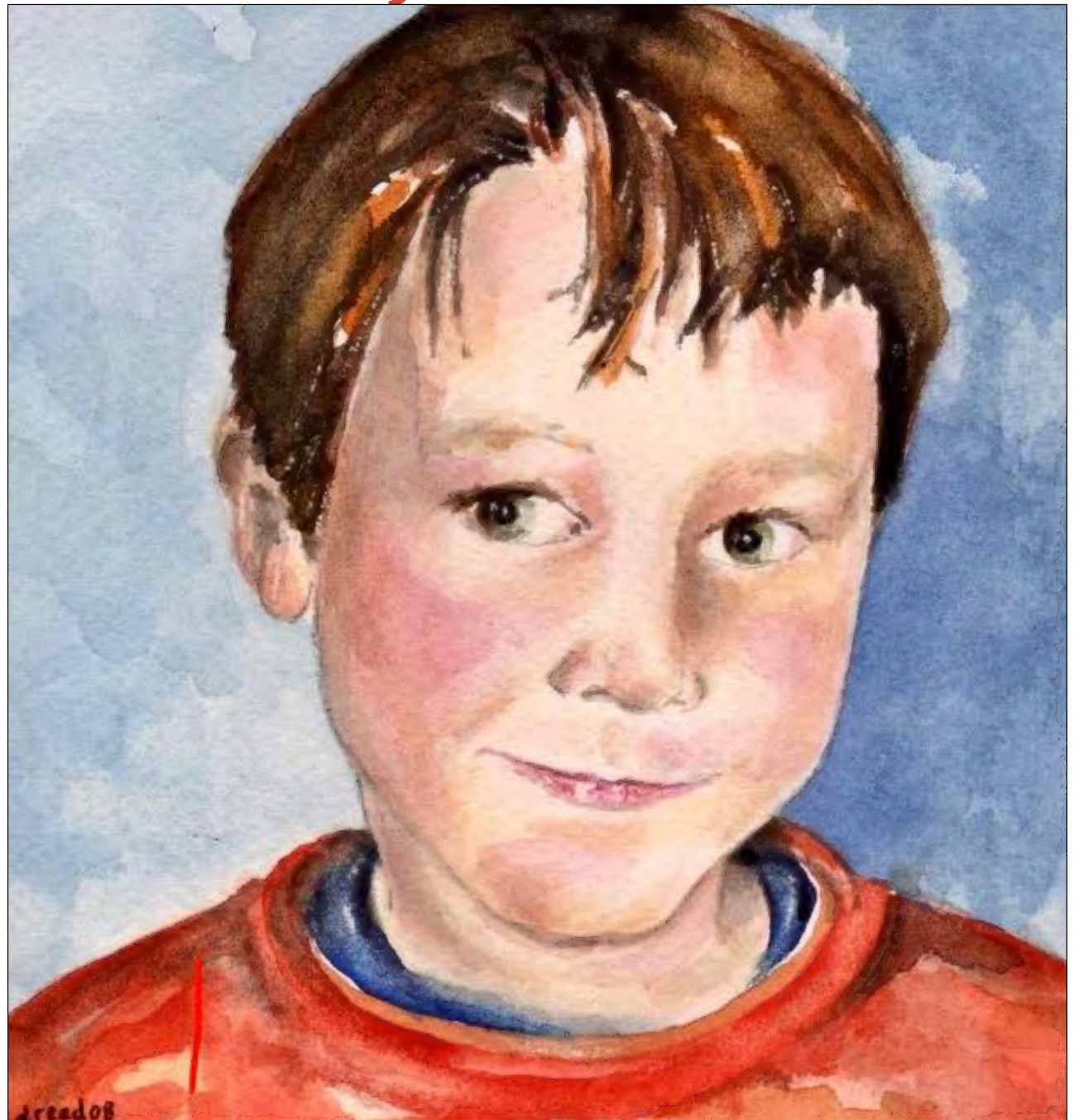
along the wires into the house. One Sunday last April, it suddenly got really windy while we were all indoors during a weird ice storm. My younger brother and our cat were both scared of all the weird noises in the trees, but when branches actually started dropping, I got panicky too. Then, before I could even jump into my jacket and Crocs, the whole

family raced out the front door because the neighbours were banging on it telling us our back wall was burning. We watched from their chicken barn as our little blue bungalow disappeared.

I only want to picture my parents on that day. But in my dreams I'm still seeing my bedroom window turning black and falling out in two big pieces. Firefighters had to pull extra water from the pond across the road to completely stop the smoke! Those men and women were incredible. Volunteers too. But Mom and Dad were the actual superstars. When I screamed about losing all my grandpa's hockey cards, they hugged me like a baby and promised me new ones. I was proud while they stayed calm with police and ambulance people. Thank goodness we didn't need them after all.

Unfortunately, we never found our cat. I still call his name when I wander the property. One day there'll be a brand new house there, and I'm praying I'll hear his voice once again when we have something to move into.

We've been living in my uncle's old motel for about five months now. We got to pick out clothes and stuff from donation places, and the Food Bank always helps us with meals. My parents have started back to work, but they have to share one laptop until they can get hold of a good secondhand one. Little bro and I used to walk to school, but we're further away right now, so



we ride the yellow bus. Dad's also going to be looking for a deal on some used wheels. We lost our car too.

My favourite thing about this class and teacher is that everybody's really nice to me. Some kids bring huge lunches and share interesting stuff. Naan, samo-

sas, croissants, wraps. One time I took a spare tuna salad, kale and onion sandwich. I ate it, even though I hate mayonnaise.

It takes a village to raise a child says Miss Fields' poster. I totally agree.

CountyLife

The following inserts are being distributed with County Life this week:

Foodland

Minden Valumart *

Rexall *

Shoppers Drug Mart Haliburton *

Todd's Independent *

**All inserts are to selected distribution areas.*

For information on how your flyer can be inserted each week in County Life please contact Melissa Armstrong at 613-332-2002 or melissa@haliburtonpress.com



County Life is a part of a newspaper series, which also includes *The Haliburton County Echo* and *The Minden Times*. Together, these three papers are dedicated to sharing the stories of Haliburton County. While the *Echo* and the *Times* carry current events and news headlines, *County Life* is filled with contributions from local writers, poets, and storytellers.

We see value in dedicating one specific paper to arts, culture, and community celebrations. If you are interested in learning more, or sharing your stories within these pages, contact emily@haliburtonpress.com.

Thank you for reading, and keeping these stories alive.

Cold calling

THIS YEAR, winter is like that guest that has overstayed their welcome. It keeps promising to leave but, well, here we are. This presents challenges to the turkey hunter. Should this nonsense keep up until the wild turkey season opens on April 25, we are sure to have an interesting hunt.

Here's why: The two most important skills a turkey hunter can have is sitting still and calling. Shooting is a distant third because you are using a shotgun at ideal ranges on what is preferably an easy-to-see, stationary target. And, if you can tell the difference between your ultra-realistic gobbler decoy and the real bird, you will fill your tag.

So, let's discuss the other skills. We will start with sitting still.

As you would expect, it's hard to sit still on the ground, when you are shivering. It also doesn't help that the average gobbler can hear your teeth chattering or see the heat leaving your body from two fields away. Luckily, this can be overcome by dressing for the weather or even sitting in a heated ground blind.

Calling in cold weather is a different matter altogether though. Worse still, this is the one that most turkey hunters never consider. Most of us just think that all we have to do is call as usual.

Well, that's fine if you want to sound unnatural.

Sure, this sounds fine in the later part of the season, when it is blissfully warm and springlike. But it is unnatural when the temperatures are frigid, and snow is still hanging on in the woods.

To fool turkeys in these frosty situations, you must add realistic nuances to your calls. By that, I mean chattering.

You don't believe me?

Well, imagine you are a hen wild turkey who has been living outside all winter and you called out to other wild turkeys in the vicinity.

Would you call? "Erk, erk, erk..." as if your beak

weren't chattering at all. Or would you sound more like, "Eee ... eeeee ... rrrr ... rrr ... kkkk ... kkkkk ... kkkk!! Eee ... eeeee ... rrrr ... rrr ... kkkk ... kkkkk ... kkkk!!! Goo ... gooo ... good ... gravy, it's ccc ... ccc ... coo ... old!"

I think you see my point.

As an aside, let me point out that most turkey hunters don't know that "Good gravy" is about the worst swear word a hen turkey can say in front of her kids. Other than "cranberry sauce" and "get stuffed," I mean.

Any turkey calling you do in wintry weather needs to take this into account. Advanced callers sometimes add snuffles and the odd cough, to lure in a



STEVE GALEA

Beyond 35



suspicious gobbler too.

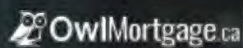
Of course, you don't want to overdo the snuffles and coughs, because honestly, who wants to spend time with a hen that has a contagious illness?

As you can see, hunting in cold weather gets confusing and often complicated. I once sat in a snowy woodlot on the edge of a field on opening day and called for no good reason. It turned out that the birds were smart enough

to stay in their roosts until the day got warmer. The only wildlife I saw was a pair of wood ducks in full breeding plumage that walked by me atop the snow.

I looked at them. They looked at me, as I chattered and dreamt of the heat of a wood stove.

In hindsight, it was a truly remarkable experience. But at the time, all I could do was mutter "Get stuffed!"



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Bringing books to life

A conversation with Rosemary Sadlier

EMILY STONEHOUSE

County Life Editor

Back in February, I wrote a story on Black History Month, which was recognizing 30 years of celebrations across the country.

When I wrote the article, I referenced events at the local libraries, as well as a display created by Haliburton School of Art and Design, which highlighted a number of Black artists with ties to the community.

But I knew I needed a bit more to the story. I wanted to tie back to the roots of the celebratory month, so I did some research. I learned about the Ontario Black History Society (OBHS), books dedicated to educating and informing, and organizations committed to featuring the significant contributions of Black Canadians.

And at the root of all these pivotal pillars that contributed to Black History Month as we know it today, was Rosemary Sadlier.

Sadlier was the president of the OBHS for 22 years. During this time, she pushed the federal government to properly implement a month-long celebration of Black history across the country. From her efforts, Jean Augustine, a Member of Parliament at the time, made a motion to support the initiative, which made its way to the House of Commons in fall of 1995, before officially being designated a national celebration in February, 1996.

And that's just one piece of the puzzle. I was in awe of Sadlier's efforts, and referenced her in the February article.

And five days later, I received an email.

The subject line was "Thank you!"

It was from Rosemary Sadlier.

And while I often feel that our little rural newspapers don't always get in front of many eyes, somehow, this article had a ripple effect.

After some friendly back and forth, Sadlier agreed to sit down for an interview.

And that's how I found myself, on a dull grey day, right smack dab between seasons, curled up with a cup of tea, and listening to the story of Rosemary Sadlier.

Sadlier was born and raised in Toronto, with her mother having ties to the Underground Railroad survivors, and



Rosemary Sadlier, a Canadian author and the former president of the Ontario Black History Society, took some time to connect with local newspaper readers this past week. /submitted

her father a descendant of Black Loyalists who fled to New Brunswick during the American Revolution.

While Toronto was always home, her family had ties to Bancroft, where she spent many summers cottaging, swimming, and of course, reading. "As a child, it was very much a part of my life," said Sadlier, as we settled into our conversation. "When you're there, you're away from your friends, away from the television. You had a radio, and you had books."

Books. These were the best friends of Sadlier growing up; transporting her to a different world, capturing a time and a place that reached far beyond the confines of reality. "As a kid, a part of the reality of who I am, is that I always seemed to have something," said Sadlier. "A cold or a flu. Books were a constant companion. They wait for you. I still find it very hard to stop in the middle of a chapter. If it's a really compelling story, you just have to know how the book will end."

And books were what opened her eyes to the world. "Reading commits you to following through with an idea," she

said. "It commits you to find parallels to a world different from your own, and it introduces so many phenomenal ideas."

Through reading, Sadlier realized she wanted to study people, and solve problems. This led her to explore a sociology degree, before pursuing a master's degree in social work from the University of Toronto.

But then her life took a turn, and a family focus fell to the forefront. Sadlier married and had three children, and while her love for reading and writing were still present, the priorities shifted.

This was when she started to think of ways to reconnect with herself while in the role of a mother. She joined the Black History Society of Ontario, an organization founded in 1978 to bring Black History Month to the City of Toronto. And during one meeting, Sadlier was interviewed by City TV.

That night, the segment aired, and a publisher watched the snippet with Sadlier featured. Before long, he was in contact with her, and told her he wanted her to write a book. "All this other stuff," she laughed, "and now I'm back to my first love: writing and words."

While Sadlier did not originally have a specific topic set for the book, at the time, she was a young mother. So after reading an article in the *Toronto Star*, Sadlier had her lightbulb moment, and *Leading the Way, Black Women in Canada* came to be.

Designed for children, Sadlier saw an opportunity to connect with kids, and bring Black history to life for all ages. "What I realized is that a kids book isn't just for kids," she said. "The parents read the books, the teachers read the books, and it's an entryway for so many lessons."

Sadlier went on to pen a number of other books, designed for all ages, educating readers about the significant contributions of Black Canadians. "My goal wasn't to just to write a book," she said, "but to write a book about things we don't know about."

When asked about her greatest points of pride, aside from raising her three kids, Sadlier noted that her legacy will continue through the national recognition of Black History Month. She was also instrumental in the official proclamation of August 1 as Emancipation Day, marking the abolition of slavery in the British Empire, including Canada. This was celebrated in Toronto before being recognized at a provincial level in 2008, and a national level in 2021. "It's important to know that within our history, there was a period of enslavement," said Sadlier. "People don't always realize that. And that connects us to so many other countries."

And those are just a few pieces of the puzzle.

Through it all, Sadlier honours her original ties to words and books; her best friends growing up. Since stepping down as President for the OBHS, she continues to write, continues to present, continues to educate. She is adamant about telling the stories of Black Canadians, and dedicated to shedding light on the past in an effort to wipe away the cobwebs of the future. Both an ending and a beginning of a lifelong legacy.

"I'm not only honouring my own ancestors," she said, while our call wrapped up and the rain began to pelt the windows. "But I am also hopefully helping people appreciate that we've always been a very diverse country, and we always will be."

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Haliburton Real Easy Ryders kicks off season

EMILY STONEHOUSE

County Life Editor

The wind blowing over you, the burning of your legs as you earn your momentum, and gliding over hills.

That is the thrill of riding a bike in Haliburton County.

For Haliburton Real Easy Ryders Cycling Club's President LeeAnn Cruz, it is the camaraderie and the great roads of the County that allow her to get up early for a ride every Tuesday, Friday and Saturday.

After moving from Mississauga, Cruz says that it did not take long for her to realize how navigable our roads are, and how beautiful the scenery is across Haliburton County for cycling.

After years of running, Cruz learned to love cycling for exercise after she tore her ACL.

There are many benefits to joining a cycling club over riding alone. With fellow riders, you have more support for mechanical assistance, security, safety, and access to help in an emergency.

With one route starting at the Lochlin Community Centre, riders can travel along the road to Kate's Burger Counter, stop in and enjoy a coffee, then loop back to Lochlin to complete their ride.

"We do a lot more than just ride our bikes," said Cruz.

The cycling club has two trips planned for this year. In June, there will be a trip to Goderich. In September, the club will be organizing a trip to Napanee. Spouses are welcome to join in on the adventure. During the day on these trips, club members will be riding and discovering the new areas. In the evening, there will be group dinners.

With many of the club's members being musically inclined, Cruz says that you can expect a sing-a-long and someone to pull out their instrument. One night is even dedicated for members to perform.

In the past, the club has even had line dancing lessons from club member Jackie Bell.



The Haliburton Real Easy Ryders are about to set out on their spring season. /FILE

Members can also enjoy social events, like the three potluck lunches this season.

"The delicious dishes draw everybody in," said Cruz, with a laugh.

Membership to the Real Easy Ryders is open to riders of all skill levels and age.

"We try to welcome everyone and be as accommodating as we can," said Cruz.

Last year, the Real Easy Ryders boasted 132 members. That number includes local residents and a mix of seasonal attendees that join in on the fun.

Membership to join the riding club is \$40. This fee goes to paying for their rentals, AGM, Ride with GPS, and insurance for the club.

Cruz is proud to say that the \$40 membership fee has remained constant for the past five years.

Before officially becoming a member of the club, those interested can participate in a ride-along to see if they are

wanting to commit to membership.

When joining for a race, riders will introduce themselves, talk about their skill level and will be paired with an experienced rider to help them get comfortable.

The club disperses at the beginning, splitting off into groups of similar experience and those wanting different challenges of ride.

Riders bike in single-file and will signal to each other for slowing down and turning to ensure safety and no crash pile-ups.

Members also get access to a Ride with GPS account which shows a map with the route. Those new to the area still often print maps out and bring them with them on their rides.

"We ride in rain and shine," said Cruz. "We leave it up to the members."

Confidence and skill should always be considered before deciding to cycle in the rain as it makes the road extra slippery, especially with sandy should-

ers in the County.

The Real Easy Ryders will be hosting a Let's Get Rolling social event on Sunday, April 26 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Stanhope Firefighters Hall. Participants are encouraged to bring a reusable mug.

There will be talks on riding safety, guidelines, and Hywel Lee and Dave Paddock from Algonquin Outfitters will be in attendance to answer questions about maintenance and accessories.

The first group ride will be taking place on April 28. New this year, the departure time has been changed to the afternoon in May and October.

Whether you are wanting to hone your cycling skills, meet other people, or simply get exercise, the Haliburton Real Easy Ryders Cycling Club is for you.

If you are interested in becoming a member, or joining them for a ride, please visit their website haliburtonrealasyryders.com.



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Send your letters to the editor to
emily@haliburtonpress.com. Letters must be signed
 and include a phone number.

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The Moon

THROUGHOUT HISTORY, while stories have ebbed and flowed with varying heroes and themes, there has been one common character, forever present.

The Moon.

That softened spot in the sky, pulling oceans and turning tides. She's lulled sailors through songs, provided sleepscapes for busy minds. She awakens animals and changed tempos, beats, personalities.



EMILY STONEHOUSE
 County Life Editor

In my son's favourite show, the *Bear in the Big Blue House*, her name is Luna, and she ends each episode with a song about goodbyes for today, hellos for tomorrow.

So when the world watched four astronauts leave the Earth's surface to explore the exotic destination, a collective breath was felt around the planet.

The Artemis II took off on April 1, on a ten-day trip around the Moon. NASA astronauts Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, and Christina Koch, along with Canadian Space Agency astronaut Jeremy Hansen

were onboard, and the project has been revolutionary from a science, technology, and humanistic standpoint.

Because while humans have explored space before, for some reason, this felt different.

I haven't seen a Moon venture in my lifetime. This is a first. And the technological advancements since the late 1960s is astronomical.

But from a human standpoint, these people seem so real. They listen to music, share their stories of grief, of joy, of pain with the world.

Christina Koch is the first woman to travel beyond low Earth orbit, and the first woman to journey around the Moon. She is also, along with the other crew members of Artemis II, the human that has traveled the farthest from Earth.

It's a reminder that we're all just specks of dust on this giant ball that's floating through a soupy nothingness.

Watching space travel has been humbling, evocative, eye-opening. Watching it with my kids has exposed them to the mightiness of the world, the opportunities that anything is possible with science, with research, with words and wisdom and passion.

And to explore the murky nothingness with a belief

that there is something, anything, out there, provides hope for a new tomorrow.

Each and every night, since my son was teeny tiny, he has looked to the stars.

It's a practice that started small; a feeble attempt to quell his wails when he was wee, redirecting his attention to the stars. 'Let's say goodnight to the moon,' I'd hum, 'look up to the stars, what do we see?'

The greatest kaleidoscope of all time. It always captured him. Always calmed his nerves, his cries. A moment of tiny connection, while we shared the space above our heads.

The other night, it was cloudy. My son looked to the skies, through a frosty window as we brushed our teeth, lights flicking off around the house. 'No moon, mum,' my son said, a hint of sadness in his sleepy voice.

'It's there,' I said. 'Even when we don't see it, it's always there.'

And I thought of the four people up there. The little specks of dust, eager to explore the murky nothingness. A hope for tomorrow.

And how anything is possible, with words and wisdom and passion.

Top 10 reasons to want to visit the dark side of the moon

AS I write this the Artemis II mission and its astronauts have just finished visiting the dark side of the moon. You might say, "So what?" To which I say, you are obviously not thinking this through. There are plenty of great reasons to visit the dark side of the moon. Here are my top 10:



STEVE GALEA
 Humour Columnist

1. Plenty of parking.
2. Real estate prices still reasonable.
3. Pretty sure that's where all the cheese is.
4. Can definitely fact-check the Pink Floyd album.
5. Has not been tariffed yet.
6. Not yet a crowded tourist destination.
7. No cooler place to karaoke your version of, "Fly me to the moon."
8. Next time Becky goes on about the French Riviera ...
9. Now when someone calls you "Space Cadet" you can correct them.
10. It's the one place Revenue Canada won't look.



Lingering

Morning Sky christening spring, pale as seagulls
 wings flapping through Air,
 snowflakes melting into their feathers as the pair fly
 over the River where a mallard and its mate
 float along the rivulet of River that flows between
 the cracking skin of ice, snowflakes dripping
 down from Sky,
 dissolving into the darkness of water, melting into
 the bark of willows that stoop over this sliver of River,
 their drooping tresses yellow and thin as string,
 waiting for spring to green them, nests perched in the
 crooks of their branches,

I wonder whether they are leftover from last year,
 like the debris of leaves, plastered to the ground,
 cloaked in Snow all winter long, now belonging to
 the earth instead of their trees, one of them carried by
 the current of River,

I watch it drift past the pair of mallards floating
 alongside one another, straggling behind the rest of
 the ducks,

congregating in a cluster in a widening piece of
 River, the skin of ice thinning on both sides,
 as the ducks drift along the River, silent as Sky molt-
 ing feathers on this first spring day,
 Air, still as the willows stooping over the riverbank,
 where I stand watching the mallard and its mate
 linger behind,

turning in the water to face one another, touching
 beak to beak,

and I wonder whether they are nuzzling, like
 humans, cheek to cheek,
 snowflakes drifting through Air all around them,
 slow and silent, taking their time, enjoying the ride
 between Sky and the earth,
 feathering blades of grass or melting into the with-
 ered faces of last year's leaves, or landing in
 Rivers or streams,

becoming part of their flow, as Snow melts from the
 banks and cracks and fissures form in the ice,
 swallowed by the River that it sheathed, my eyes
 transfixed by the pair of mallards that appear to only
 have eyes

for one another as they float along the rivulet of
 River on this first spring day, seagulls serenading

them as they fly over them,
 squawking through the snowflakes that keep falling
 and falling, the kind that melt, not the kind that stay,
 I hold out my hand, watch one land in my palm, feel
 the coolness of it melting into my skin, inhaling spring
 deep into my lungs,

though it still feels like winter as Air trickles its way
 down, and for a moment,

I shiver beneath my layers of coat and
 sweater and flesh,

standing still, alongside a willow, watching the
 rivulet of River swallow snowflakes as they fall,
 landing on the feathers of the pair of mallards, that
 prefer to be Alone, together, rather than floating
 along with the cluster of ducks ahead of them, lin-
 gering, taking their time, like the snowflakes drifting
 down from a spring Sky,

my eyes blinking upwards at the smudge of Sun
 that's barely there, smiling at the snowflakes
 lacing Air,

Good-Bye, winter, I whisper, though I know it will
 linger, trying to muffle spring, that seeps through
 cracks in the earth

and squirms beneath the bark of trees, seeds stirring
 in the darkness beneath the debris of last year's leaves,

I watch another one drifting along the rivulet of
 River, passing the pair of mallards, enjoying the quiet
 of each other's company,

'till the male suddenly screeches and thrashes its
 wings, flapping up into Air, its mate follows a heart-
 beat later,

and I wonder what happened to make them leave,
 landing back in the water among the rest of the ducks,
 my eyes unable to spot the pair that blend in with
 the others, wondering whether they are still floating
 along the River together,

or are separated by the other ducks, the space
 between them widening, like the current of River
 between breaking sheets of ice,
 melting, like snowflakes, into the blackness
 of its flow.

Sylvie Kalenda

Nature in your backyard

County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email emily@haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.



Visiting moose by
Laura Smith



Sandhill Cranes return by
Lou Weber



Better than TV by Emily Stonehouse



Curious Blue Jay by Tammy Nash



Pine Marten resting by Tammy Nash



Chickadee by Jill Moulton

Community Events

Come Together: A Fundraising Concert/ Dance for Point in Time

When: April 17, 7 p.m., doors open at 6:30 p.m.
Where: Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle St., Minden

Music provided by Adverse Conditions. Tickets are \$25 in advance, or \$30 at the door. Tickets available on www.eventbrite.ca, at Point in Time in Haliburton, or by calling 705-286-1470. Refreshments by donation at intermission.

Friends of The Haliburton County Public Library Café

When: Mon., April 27 1 p.m.
Where: Minden Hills Branch of The Haliburton Public Library, 176 Bobcaygeon Rd. Minden
The Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library are excited to host Fay Martin at our

spring café. Fay is the author of *Dementia Widow*. Join us for an informative afternoon to learn more about her recent book. Signed copies of Fay's book will be available for \$25. Light refreshments will be served. Admission is by donation. Have a question, contact Penni Chalk 705-286-3276.

"The Bee Project - Native Bees"

When: May 12, 7 p.m.
Where: Minden Community Centre, 55 Parkside
Your garden is buzzing. Join the Minden & District Horticultural Society to learn about "The Bee Project - Native Bees" from guest speaker Cheryl Fraser, followed by the monthly society meeting. New members welcome!

Minden & District Horticultural Society Annual Plant Sale

When: May 16, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Where: 63 Bobcaygeon Rd., Minden
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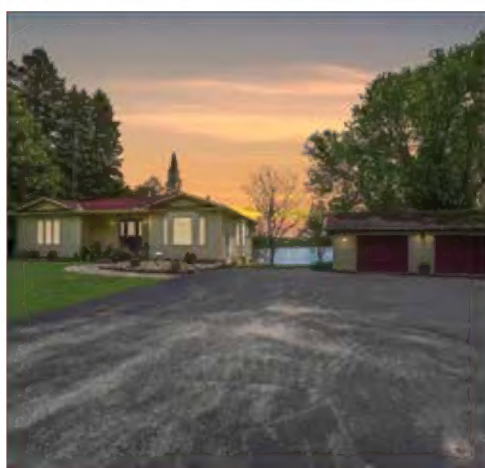


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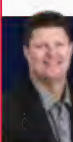
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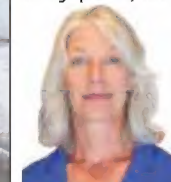


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221 ALPINE LAKE ROAD \$560,000



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There will always be more campfires

I THINK I have quoted Meg Soper before in her compelling question of: what makes you throw back the blankets in the morning? It's her way of checking on what energizes you, excites, motivates and gets you moving.

Both my adult kids have a deep love of winter sports; my daughter is a skating coach, and my son is part of a curling league. Both these passions came to their seasonal end last weekend, and to add an extra punctuation to the transition, the ice was removed in both venues at the end of the weekend.

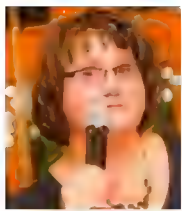
My daughter had to go back to the arena and see the pile of ice and snow that once was the rink melting in the sunshine and she felt the kind

of grief we all feel when something is changing or ending. Change is, as they say, a constant. We are always being challenged to walk forward in changes big and small. I once texted a friend

that I was sad to see the last campfire of the trip end, and they reminded me that while this trip ends, there will be many more campfires.

The challenge for all of us is not only to walk through the change, but also to dance, move, and perhaps plunge into the next adventure, what we now face and who we have become at the end of each change or changing event. If change is the only

constant, resistance only means that the next big thing might be harder to see and find, dance right in.



TERESA JORDAN
Community Living
Contemplations

Jump in the Lake fundraiser returns to support County

The Minden Community Food Centre and Central Food Network are inviting you to take bold action in the fight against food insecurity and poverty across the Highlands.

The Jump in the Lake Challenge returns this May long weekend, encouraging individuals and teams across Haliburton County to take a plunge into ice-cold water and raise funds in support of local charities.

Taking place on Saturday, May 16th at 2 p.m., this unique event allows participants to take the plunge from their own dock, shoreline, or favourite watering hole, making it easy for anyone to get involved - no matter where they are.

Tracey Gilbert, manager of the Minden Community Food Centre, and Tina Jackson, executive director of the Central Food Network, are challenging community members to step up, take the plunge, and help raise funds in support of their organization of choice.

"This event is a fun and meaningful way to bring people together while supporting a critical need in our communities," says Gilbert. "The rising cost of food and the increasing demand for support make it more important than ever that we come together to help our neighbours."

The Minden Community Food Centre served an average of 420 people each month in January and February of 2026. The Central Network served 241 individuals in January through its food banks in Wilberforce and Cardiff, and responded to 80 calls for heating and hydro support. As the need continues to rise, joining in creates a wave of impact, lending a helping hand to neighbours in need.

If jumping in the lake is not your thing, we invite you to jump into the fun by registering and setting your own bold challenge. That could be running a 5K, hosting a BBQ, organizing a knit-a-thon, hosting a live stream, or any other bold

idea you can think of!

"Food and heat are necessities; your participation through Jump in the Lake makes a difference. Every dollar raised helps fuel the fight against hunger and poverty across Haliburton Highlands," Jackson says. "Together, we make our communities stronger."

Last year, the event raised a combined total of over \$22,000, and organizers are setting an ambitious goal of \$25,000 for 2026.

All proceeds will go directly toward supporting individuals and families across Haliburton County.

- Funds raised for the Minden Community Food Centre help to improve access to food and reduce the impacts of food insecurity throughout the region.

- Funds raised for the Central Food Network support all of CFN's programs, which include the Highlands East Food Banks in Cardiff and Wilberforce, Heat Bank Haliburton County's heating and hydro programs, free income tax clinics and more. Dollars raised help ensure no neighbour goes hungry or cold across the Highlands.

Participants can register as individuals or form teams to make the experience even more fun and impactful! Those who prefer to stay dry can still support the cause by donating to a participant or team.

Whether you take an icy plunge, set your own bold challenge, donate, or cheer others on, your support helps ensure that no one in our community goes without.

Get Involved

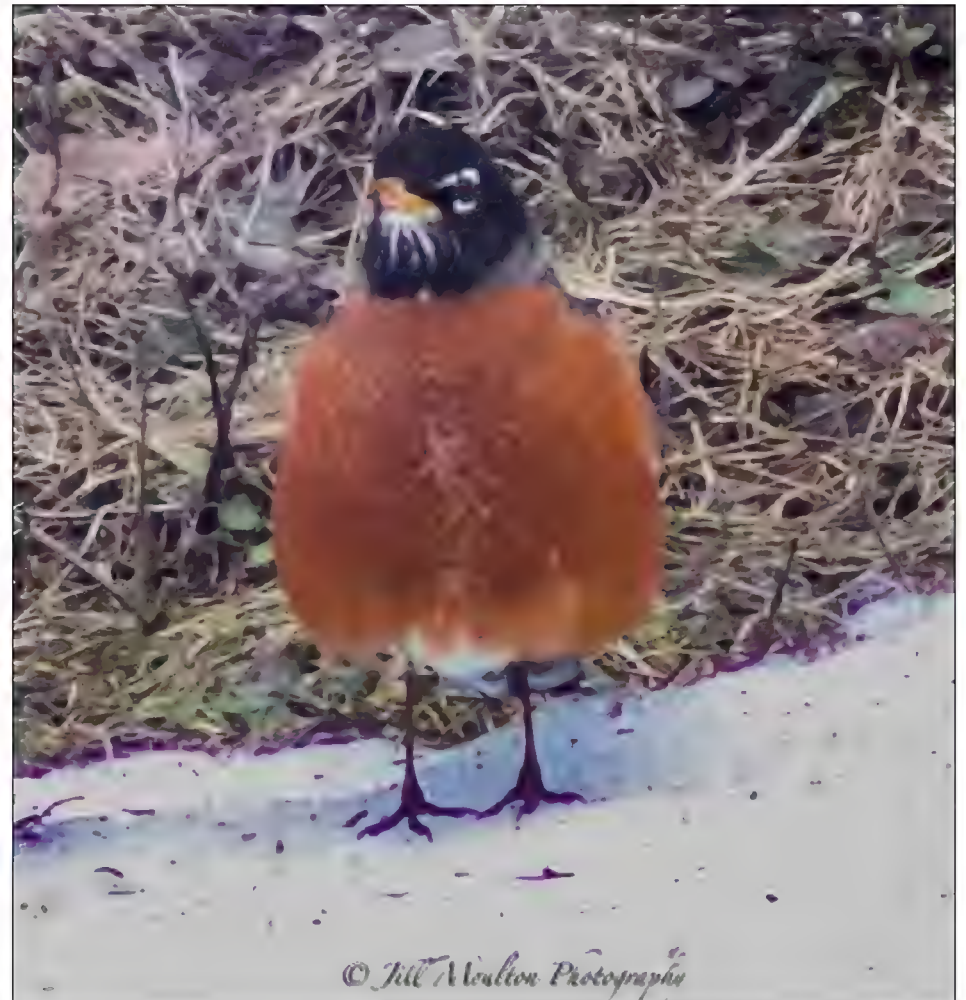
To register, donate, or learn more, visit the shared Haliburton County Food Bank website: www.foodbankshaliburtoncounty.ca/jump-in-the-lake

Questions, please reach out to either charity. We are happy to help!

Submitted

Nature in your backyard

County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email emily@haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.



Robin returns by Jill Moulton

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Legion Events

Branch 441 Kinmount

Monday: Bid Euchre 1 p.m., Card night 7 p.m.
 Wednesday: Mixed Darts, 7:30 p.m.
 Friday: Bingo- Doors open at 5 p.m., play at 6:45 p.m.
 Saturday: Clubroom opens at 3 p.m. Meat draw 5 p.m.
 Special events:
 2nd Sunday of the month Ladies Auxiliary - 11 a.m.
 3rd Thursday of the month 7 p.m. executive meeting and 7:30 p.m. general meeting (members only)
 Last Sunday of the month - All you can eat breakfast Hall rentals available at reasonable prices.
 Email: 441RCL@gmail.com Call 705-488-3462 or 705-928-7105. We welcome everyone to our events and we look forward to seeing you!

Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge 1 p.m. Schofield Rm. Youth darts 6:30 to 8 p.m. Clubroom 10 to 18 years of age. All are welcome, no experience necessary
Tuesdays: League darts 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start – Main Hall. Bingo doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo 7 p.m. FirstWed of each month with jackpot. Follow Facebook.com/Branch129

Bingo for the most up-to-date information

Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. All members urged to attend.
 Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Five meat draw, five prizes each draw, first draw 4:30 p.m., last draw 6:30 p.m. Tickets \$2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards. 50/50 Draw 5:40 p.m.
Planning a function for 10 or 200, call Cheryl Waller at 905-447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Everyone is welcome! Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m.

Branch 636 Minden

Lunch - Monday to Friday

Monday: Rug Hookers every second week.
 Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Friday Fish & Chips, Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m.

Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541.
 Schedules are subject to change without notice. Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636 for more info.

Branch 624 Wilberforce

Hours - Sunday: Special Events Only, Monday: 7 to 10 p.m., Tuesday: Special Events Only, Wednesday: 2 to 10 p.m., Thursday: 2 to 6 p.m., Friday: 2 to 11 p.m., Saturday: 2 to 7 p.m.
Monday: April 20, 27 Darts \$5/player 7 p.m.
Tuesday: April 14, 21, 28 Veteran's and Seniors Exercise Club 1 p.m.
Wednesday: April 15, 22, 29 Darts \$5/player 2 p.m. 22, 29 Quick Supper Menu changes weekly \$10. 5 to 6:30 p.m.
 15, 22, 29 Open Cribbage 6:30 p.m – No need to pre-register
Thursday: April 9, 23 HHHS Social Rec 10 a.m.
Friday: April 17 Fish and Chips 1pc/\$15, 2pc/\$20. 5 to 8 p.m.
 24 Wings and Jam Session \$15/lb. 5 to 8 p.m.
 24 Community Care 55+ Lunch \$20. Noon
Saturday: April 18 Karaoke 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.
 25 Nacho Average Trivia Registration is at 6:30 p.m. Game Begins at 7 p.m. Sharp. \$5/Player
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A Moose in April

If, perchance, I was a moose,
On a soggy April day,
Would I favour a wet bog,
Or on firm land would I stay?

Would I need level terrain
So, from wolves, could quickly flee?
Maybe a dark, tangled swamp
Is a safer place to be.

Would I lean toward the sun
And soak up every ray,
If through sodden clouds it broke,
To make the rain go away?

...And if I heard an odd noise
One day, coming from afar,
Would I stroll forth to ponder
The strange creature ...in a car?

~Kathy Figueroa

"A Moose in April" was first published in the May 1, 2014,
edition of The Bancroft Times newspaper.

Gumboots

When I was in town
I had a fashion attack
And bought shiny
New gumboots
In sleek stylish black
Now through the mud
I can fearlessly stomp
And I don't get my feet wet
When I cross the swamp
I lived in the city
A long time ago
And had to dress up there
Mainly for show
I worked nine to five
White collar hours
In those great big
Toronto office towers
Now I live in the country
And life is just grand
When I spend my days
Outside on the land
I'm happy as a lark

As I work in the dirt
In my gumboots, jeans
And an old flannel shirt
You won't find my wardrobe
In a fashion magazine
Because I dress for comfort
Not to be seen
So bring on the flannel
Bring on the plaid
Bring on the gumboots
The best footwear I've had
I don't look high fashion
But don't give two hoots
Because I always feel good
When I wear gumboots!

~Kathy Figueroa

"Gumboots" was first published
on April 14, 2011, in
The Bancroft Times newspaper.

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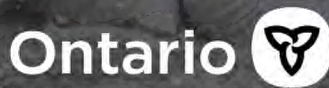
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Monday, April 14, 1997

Board hit again

A few dollars more

by Andrew Milne

The school board had yet another unpleasant surprise to deal with at its special budget meeting last week.

On top of the \$270,000 cut from the provincial grant, the board was handed a memo from the municipality of Dysart et al announcing that a tax appeal dating back to 1991 was successful and the board's share was \$149,000.

Business superintendent Jim Bradley said he could only apologize to the board as he made the announcement. He said that his preparation of possible budget scenarios did not take the amount into consideration. Administration, he explained, simply didn't have time to deal with it.

The meeting was told that a Dysart landowner had appealed his taxes, and had won that appeal. The \$149,000 was the board's share of the larger total appeal amount of \$220,730. The remaining \$71,730 of the refund will have to be absorbed by the Municipality of Dysart et al.

Bradley said briefly that the rebate is related to the issue of the value of forested lands. Dysart reeve Murray Fearrey said later the appeal did not deal directly with the managed forest tax rebate issue or the protest of 1994. Dysart et al's letter on the subject described the appeal as retroactive to 1991.

The \$149,000 amount is the second unpleasant surprise for the board in the last few weeks prior to their last budget. The \$270,000 cut from the province — equal to last year's — followed on the heels of an announcement from Minister of Education and Training John Snobelen that education funding would be kept stable for 1997-1998. The board is heading into its budget setting process this week.

Fearrey said last week that while the \$72,000 Dysart will

(more on page 4)



Her first taste of ice cream

The musical production *Anne of Green Gables* opened this past weekend with a splash. At each performance the audience was delighted with the bouncy musical numbers and heart-warming story. The first act of the play ends with a picnic scene in which the heroine, Anne Shirley, played by Shirleen Dehaan, gets her first taste of ice cream when Gilbert Blythe, played by Bryn Gray, is tripped and accidentally pushes a cone into her face. To enable the scene to be completed, the staging called for just a small amount of ice cream to be left on her face, however, as the photo above shows, during the dress rehearsal, things got a little out of hand. The ice cream cone was fully charged (with whipped cream) and as

Gilbert tripped, all of Anne's face, her hands, part of her costume and the stage were splattered. Needless to say, Anne and other cast members, including Kate Campbell as Diana Barry, left, and Rebeka Bjelis playing Josie Pye, right, were surprised by the unscripted consequences of collision and momentarily slipped out of character. Shirleen quickly recovered and completed the scene while the other members of the cast struggled to maintain their composure. As those who have attended subsequent performances can attest, the ice cream scene is a little less messy but just as enjoyable as this first run-through. For more photos from *Anne of Green Gables* please turn to page 5.

Mixed findings in amalgamation studies

by Jerry Grozelle

Four committees from the United Townships of Galway and Cavendish have been struck to study restructuring, specifically how the municipality could benefit from one or more of four scenarios. One committee's mandate was to determine the benefits, if any, of retaining the status quo — the municipality of Galway-Cavendish remaining as it is, within the County of Peterborough. The second group studied the possible effects if the municipality left Peterborough County and joined Haliburton County. Group three's directive was to see if there are any benefits to be gained from amalgamating with the municipalities of Harvey, Chandos and Burleigh-Anstruther. The fourth group's mandate was to analyze the possible advantages of amalgamating with Snowdon and Glamorgan, within Haliburton County.

Those committees presented their findings at the April 8 Galway-Cavendish council meeting.

Don MacKay, chair of the first group, noted that there were no dissenting opinions within his group of five committee members. He also stated that his committee studied only the option of amalgamation with Harvey Township because analysis of statistics from Chandos, Belmont-Methuen and Burleigh-Anstruther would have been too lengthy to be accomplished within the time frame allotted. Therefore, a "very general" comparison between Haliburton and Peterborough counties was conducted, with a further comparative study between Galway-Cavendish and Harvey Township.

"The status quo is the way to go," he told council. "A move to Haliburton would not serve the highest percentage of the popula-

tion of Galway-Cavendish.

The report states that Galway-Cavendish is a well administered municipality, with a lower per household cost than Harvey Township.

"Only if amalgamation becomes mandatory, this committee would be sympathetic to an amalgamation with Harvey Township in the County of Peterborough," MacKay stated.

Later, in the report's conclusions, it is stated that "Harvey Township has 13 times more welfare costs than Galway-Cavendish and yet only has 4.5 times more permanent population."

It is further noted that Harvey has four times the office staff and only 1.5 times more households. It also spends 2.98 times more per year than Galway-Cavendish.

Group One's report made several statements and quoted numerous figures that have been refuted by several members of other committees. Conclusions in almost a dozen points have been challenged, complete with an analysis of where each statement was in error and a list of contact people who can verify the authenticity of the corrections.

"I have some problems with that report," said Galway-Cavendish deputy-reeve Peter Franzen, who is among those who have challenged Group One's report. Accordingly, he documented his objections to the findings stated in the report, including:

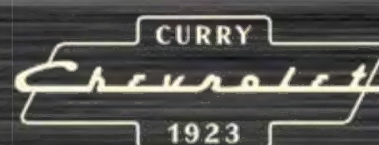
1. The figures quoted for the specific grants per household in Peterborough County amount to \$176.78 compared to \$456.39 in Haliburton County are incorrect.

2. The conclusion that Haliburton is more dependent on grants

(more on page 3)

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